



# Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

## Youth Commission Member Application

The [Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana](#) is a three-branch state government policy-coordinating body for children, youth, and families. Its purpose is to study issues concerning vulnerable youth, make recommendations on legislation, and promote information-sharing and best practices for the benefit of vulnerable youth throughout the state.

The Commission was established by law in Indiana in 2013. You can read the [legal code about the Commission here](#). In 2021, the Indiana General Assembly adopted a new law ([HEA 1537](#)) that expands the Commission from 18 to 20 members. The two new members are to be young adults, ages 18-29, who have, at or after the age of 10, been served by the Department of Child Services, the Family and Social Services Administration, the Department of Correction, or a juvenile probation department.

To be a successful member of the Children's Commission, young adults should:

- Be interested in government and policy
- Have reflected upon their own experience with state systems and be able to use their experience to inform their advocacy on behalf of current and future system-impacted youth
- Be available to attend meetings on the third Wednesday of the months of August, October, December, February, April, and June, from 10 a.m. to noon, in downtown Indianapolis.
- Be able and willing to prepare for meetings by reading materials in advance and communicating questions to Commission staff as needed.
- Be curious and willing to learn

Commission members are entitled to be reimbursed for their travel costs to attend meetings and to receive the same per diem as established by the Legislative Council for interim study committees (currently \$75 per meeting).

New members will receive training and support from the Commission's staff.

Youth Commission members are appointed by the Commission chair for a two-year term. To express interest in being appointed, please complete this application and return to Julie Whitman, Executive Director, at [Julie.whitman@courts.in.gov](mailto:Julie.whitman@courts.in.gov) by June 7, 2021. Questions may also be directed to this same email.

First & Last Name:

Email address:

Cell Phone #:

Address:

Date of Birth:

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana?
2. Tell us a little about your involvement with state systems (DCS, FSSA, DOC, and/or juvenile probation). Include the length of time of your involvement, how old you were, and how you moved from that experience to where you are today.
3. Occupation and future goals (you only need to answer one)
  - a. If you are a student, what are you studying and what are your academic and career goals?
  - b. If you are working, what is your job and what are your future career goals?
  - c. If you are neither working nor studying, how do you spend your time and what are your future goals?
4. What does public service mean to you?

#### OPTIONAL: Letter of Recommendation

Have someone write a letter of recommendation describing your strengths and why you would make a good member of the Children's Commission. Letters of recommendation should be sent to [Julie.whitman@courts.in.gov](mailto:Julie.whitman@courts.in.gov); they are due when applications are due: June 7, 2021.

#### OPTIONAL: Video Introduction & Your Why

Create a short video introducing yourself and describing your "why"—your reason for wanting to be a Children's Commission member. Send your video to [Julie.whitman@courts.in.gov](mailto:Julie.whitman@courts.in.gov) by June 7, 2021.